

WILL BE FIGHT
TO THE FINISH

Issue Clearly Raised Between Mine Owners and Union Miners of Goldfield.

PROPRIETORS WILL TRY TO OPEN MINES WEDNESDAY

Camp Remains Perfectly Quiet and Soldiers Have Nothing Special to Do

GOLDFIELD, Nev., Dec. 8.—Captain William Cox, the representative of Governor Sparks in Goldfield, stated this afternoon that he had information from the Mine Owners' association that a attempt will be made during the week to reopen the mines with non-union men. This information has been communicated to the Governor, and in the hands of Colonel Alfred Reynolds, commanding the federal troops now encamped in this city. Officials of the Mine Owners' association refuse to say positively that such is the case, but every indication points to the fact that Wednesday, next, has been decided on as the day when the attempt will be made to put men in the mines to pump out the water that is fast filling the lower levels. If there is to be a clash between the members of the Western Federation of Miners and the soldiers of Uncle Sam it will come at this time.

There is no non-union owner.

There are now nine companies of troops here, the second detachment from Monterey having gone into permanent camp on Combination hill, within 300 yards of the mill of the Goldfield Consolidated company. The first detachment, which came from San Francisco, remains in the camp established in the northwestern part of the city a mile and a half from the nearest mine.

Ready to Meet Situation.

Colonel Reynolds, commanding all of the troops here, is quartered in a tent in the first camp and will remain there. He refuses to say whether he will do tactical maneuvers against the miners, but the attempt is made to reopen, but merely states that the troops are here to preserve order and that they are prepared to do so in the event of a strike.

Sheriff Ingalls of Esmeralda county, in which Goldfield is located, has gone away to some distant mines and the Sheriff's office is in the hands of United States Marshal Beasly, who says that he is amply able to handle any crisis that may arise from the attempt to reopen the mines. He has sworn to keep the peace and has said that the statements made by the mine owners that the union men are arming themselves and preparing to make trouble are false, and says that in his belief the only way to prevent a strike is to prevent the mine owners from working

A telegram which the Sheriff sent to Governor Sparks, protesting against the presence of federal troops in Goldfield remains unanswered. There will be no co-operation between the local peace officers and the troops in the event of any trouble.

Statements are being issued to the public by both the Mine Owners' association and the officials of the local Miners' union, setting forth the view of both sides on the situation.

Why the Troops Came.

From what can be gathered it seems probable that the Mine Owners' association was primarily responsible for the presence of the Federal troops here, but it was not until the miners had placed that troops should be sent at this time. It was intended to have them in readiness to respond to an urgent call, but when the troops were sent, what the sending of troops was contemplated the Governor was told that it would be best to have the troops on the ground as the miners were incensed over the fact that the troops were sent without a chance to come and might commit violence at any minute. The mine owners then saw the chance to take advantage of the presence of the troops here to be taken, and they were not slow to make that miners from other camps are to be brought in and the statement of the owners is that they believe enough men can be had in Goshute to overpower during the week but at the same time the statement is made openly and positively, that men from the outside will be brought in if the hard men of the strip in particular cannot be had, and go to work.

Making Test of Strength

There is but little denial of the statement being freely made here that the mine owners have all along deliberately refused to guarantee the union in the manner demanded by the script with the result that the miners have struggled and settled, once and for all, the question of union domination of Goldfield. Their statement is that they are worn out with the constant struggle between themselves and the owners, and that they mean to maintain an open camp in the future and be free to employ whosoever they will, without question by the union.

All of the mines are picketed at present and according to the statement of the owners, it is impossible for the owner or manager of a property to visit his property, to know what con-

dition it is in, much more so than the mine to work the pumps. But beyond this there is little evidence on the surface that any preventive measures are being taken by the union. Both sides freely state that the fight is on and that this is to be a fight to a finish, and that they are prepared for it. Neither side pretends that the question of accepting the scrip issued by the John S. Cook company has ever anything more than an excuse to bring the strike to an issue. The day has been remarkably quiet. Very few people visited the camps of the troops and only

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